

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed May 31, 2007 (the “*Office Action*”). At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 24-32 were pending, of which, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 24-32. Applicants have amended Claim 32 and have added Claims 33, 34, and 35. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 101 Rejections

The *Office Action* rejects Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended Claim 32 in a fashion whereby the Examiner’s objections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 have been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Section 112 Rejections

The *Office Action* rejects Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended Claim 32 in a fashion whereby the Examiner’s objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over an article entitled “Security Services Markup Language” by Mishra et al. (“*Mishra*”) in view of an article entitled “Security Assertions Markup Language *Straw-man Architecture*” by Phillip Hallam-Baker (“*Hallam-Baker*”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to a method wherein a first request to grant a web service customer access to a first web service is intercepted at an agent residing between the web service customer and the first web service and between the web service customer and a second web service. One or more authentication credentials of the web service customer are

collected at the agent, and it is determined at the agent whether the web service customer is authenticated and authorized. If the web service customer is authenticated and authorized, the first request is granted at the agent; the creation of a session and a session ticket is initiated at the agent; a session ticket ID for the session ticket is obtained at the agent; and the session ticket ID and a public key are encrypted into an assertion at the agent. In further accordance with the method, a second request (comprising the assertion and a public key) to grant the web service customer access to a second web service is intercepted at the agent. If the private key matches the public key in the assertion, the second request is granted at the agent without reauthenticating or reauthorizing the web service customer. Similar to Claim 1, Claims 26 and 32, each include limitations generally directed to initiating the creation of a session and a session ticket, and obtaining a session ticket ID for the session ticket at an agent. Neither *Mishra* nor *Hallam-Baker*, alone or in combination disclose, teach, or suggest each of these limitations.

For example, Claim 1 recites, “at the agent . . . initiating creation of a session and a session ticket [and] obtaining a session ticket ID for the session ticket” The Examiner contends that *Mishra* discloses these limitations and supports the rejection of these limitations by broadly pointing to nine pages of *Mishra*. See *Office Action*, page 3 (citing *Mishra*, sections 3.1, 4.1, and 4.3). *Mishra* “defines Security Services Markup Language (S2ML), a protocol for two security services: authentication and authorization.” See *Mishra* section 1, page 1. However *Mishra* explicitly states, “protocols for creation and management of user sessions are outside the scope of S2ML 1.0.” See *Mishra*, Section 2.5, page 7. Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner’s position is untenable because the limitations “at the agent . . . initiating creation of a session and a session ticket [and] obtaining a session ticket ID for the session ticket” are not disclosed by “protocols for creation and management of user sessions [that] are outside the scope of S2ML 1.0.” By its own admission, *Mishra* does not disclose the limitations of Claim 1.

Moreover, the cited portions of *Mishra* recite, “User logs onto Site A [B]ased on the information provided at log-in time by the user, Site A generates a S2ML name assertion and one or more entitlements.” See *Mishra* section 3.1, page 7. Applicants respectfully contend that the cited portions of *Mishra* do not support the Examiner’s rejection because a scenario wherein “Site A generates an S2ML name assertion” does not disclose “at the agent . . . initiating creation of a session and a session ticket [and] obtaining a session ticket ID for

the session ticket . . .” as required by Claim 1. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner intends to maintain these rejections, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner more specifically support these rejections with, for example, applicable page numbers.

Applicants respectfully contend that the deficiencies of *Mishra* are not accounted for by the teachings of *Hallam-Baker*. For instance, the portions of *Hallam-Baker* cited by the Examiner describe “Session Management.” See *Hallam-Baker* Section 5.4, page 9. However, the “Session Management” section of *Hallam-Baker* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the limitations, “at the agent . . . initiating creation of a session and a session ticket [and] obtaining a session ticket ID for the session ticket . . .” as required by Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 1 and all its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. For similar reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 26 and Claim 32 and each of their dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 is directed to a method wherein a request to grant a web service customer access to a first web service is intercepted by an agent that resides between the web service customer and the first web service and between the web service customer and a second web service. The request includes an encrypted assertion and a private key and the encrypted assertion includes a session ticket ID for a session ticket. According to the method the session ticket ID was obtained prior to the request and was obtained in response to authentication and authorization of the web service customer for access to the second web service. If the private key matches the public key in the assertion, granting at the agent the second request without reauthenticating or reauthorizing the web service customer. Neither *Mishra* nor *Hallam-Baker*, alone or in combination disclose, teach, or suggest each of these limitations.

For example, Claim 7 recites, “intercepting at an agent a request . . . the request comprising an encrypted assertion and a private key, the encrypted assertion comprising a session ticket ID for a session ticket obtained prior to the request.” The Examiner did not address these limitations in the *Office Action*. Nonetheless, *Mishra* is silent with respect to “a request” that comprises an “encrypted assertion” including “a session ticket ID for a session ticket obtained prior to the request” as required by Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 7 and all of its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.



Date: 8/31/07

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